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Two from VA recognized with Hispanic Achievement awards

by Melissa Withrow, Air Vehicles Directorate

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Raymond Flores and Maj. Manuel Saenz of the Air Vehicles Directorate were honored Sept. 11 at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Hispanic Employment Program Achievement Awards Ceremony at the base's club and banquet center.

Flores won the Community Involvement Award for his outstanding community service contributions to the city of Fairborn, Ohio. Flores serves on Fairborn's cable advisory board and is also chairman of the city's Capital Improvements Review Committee. He coaches youth soccer and is an officer on Fairborn Elementary School's Parent-Teacher Organization. He is a third-degree member of the Knights of Columbus, which conducts fund-raising and community service. Additionally, Flores serves as an adjunct instructor, teaching undergraduate engineering courses part-time in the Mechanical Engineering Department of Wright State University. In addition, while attending Senior Service School at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, he tutored Washington, D.C. inner-city elementary school students.

Flores is currently chief of VA's Operations Integration Branch. He manages a team of 14 specialists providing human resources, information technology, facilities management, documents and records management, safety, environmental health, and training support to the nearly 400 engineers, scientists and support contractors.

Saenz was honored as runner-up in the Military On-the-Job Achievement category for making significant contributions toward the Air Force Research Laboratory's mission. Saenz was previously contracting branch chief of the Non-Metals Contracting Branch of the Materials and Manufacturing Contracting Division, Materials and Manufacturing Directorate. His efforts resulted in the execution and management of over 370 active contracts, delivery orders, grants, and other transactions valued in excess of \$925 million. In addition, the 2004 Contracting Commander Candidate Selection Board selected Saenz as a candidate for a squadron command position. Currently, he is the contracting division chief of VA's Contracting Division. He leads 20 contracting professionals supporting over 1400 scientists, engineers, program managers and contractor personnel. @